

Circular Letter No. 37
Sept. 11, 1923

SPANISH COURSE FOR AMERICAN TEACHERS.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN JUAN

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SAN JUAN, P. R.

September 11, 1923.
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To Supervisors of Schools and
Continental Teachers.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

SPANISH COURSE FOR AMERICAN TEACHERS.

For some years past the Department of Education has offered outlines of work to teachers from the United States who are desirous of learning Spanish. The study of this language in high schools and colleges on the continent has increased in recent years by leaps and bounds. In view of this situation, I believe that all teachers from the United States should be anxious to acquire a good knowledge of Spanish while in Porto Rico. Undoubtedly, some of them are planning to teach this language in the States at some time in the future. In order to aid them, the Department of Education has planned three courses of instruction: an elementary, an intermediate, and an advanced course. On completion of each one of these courses a suitable certificate is issued, stating the amount of credit earned. The work as outlined in this circular letter corresponds to that given in colleges and universities of the United States, and credit granted is based upon the practice in vogue in those institutions. Credit is granted for the various courses as follows: elementary, 1st semester, 4 credits; 2nd semester, 4 credits; intermediate, 1st semester, 4 credits; 2nd semester, 4 credits; advanced, 1st semester, 3 credits; 2nd semester, 3 credits. A credit is equivalent to one hour of recitation per week for one semester. Usually an hour and a half will be required for the thorough preparation of a lesson. Any person who successfully pursues any one of the courses outlined should have no difficulty in passing an examination thereon for advanced credit in corresponding courses in any standard college or university.

Residence in Porto Rico offers an additional advantage, which study in a college or university can not give; namely, the opportunity of acquiring a correct speaking knowledge of Spanish thru direct contact with the people.

9/11/23.

Earnest and consistent work on the part of the student is essential for the successful completion of any one of the courses outlined. The Department is not in a position to offer instructors, but undoubtedly, supervisors will be able to advise teachers as to properly qualified persons that might be engaged to give private lessons.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Juan B. Huyke,
Commissioner of Education.

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